

ACTORS

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This is a series of short bios of the key film actors of the 20th Century, followed by their notable film & television work, their very best performances in **bold** letters.

This book is formatted for e-Readers and other handheld devices. If you want to print it out, take in consideration that the page sizes – A6 in OpenOffice – are not conventional.

I.

THE STARS

These are the leading men, the guys who can open pictures at the box office, and make or break them. A few women have managed this feat – Bette Davis, Marilyn Monroe, Jodie Foster and Angelina Jolie – but the movies have almost always been about the male stars – action heroes, romantic leads, and comedians who give the guys someone to idolize and the girls their models for future husbands... yes, even the first star on this list. Just ask any one of the leading ladies who won gold under his lead.

WOODY ALLEN

No one's idea of a leading man, and rarely boffo box office, this brilliant director / screenwriter / actor has nevertheless starred in some of the best comedies of his generation, even if he's lifted a portion of his material from Marx & Hope.

- Take the Money and Run – 1971
Everything You Ever ... Sex – 1972
Bananas – 1973
Sleeper – 1974
Love & Death 1975
The Front – 1976
Annie Hall – 1977
Manhattan – 1978
Stardust Memories – 1980
A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy – 1981
Broadway Danny Rose – 1985
Hannah & Her Sisters – 1986
Radio Days (narration) – 1987
Scenes From A Mall – 1991
Mighty Aphrodite – 1993
Everyone Says I Love You – 1995

DANA ANDREWS

Attractive, if hard-looking, tough guy in many adventures and melodramas.

The Westerner – 1940

Tobacco Road – 1941

Ball of Fire – 1941

Crash Dive – 1943

The Ox-Bow Incident – 1943

North Star – 1943

The Purple Heart – 1944

Laura – 1944

A Walk In The Sun – 1945

The Best Years of Our Lives – 1946

Boomerang – 1947

My Foolish Heart – 1950

Elephant Walk – 1953

Strange Lady in Town – 1955

While the City Sleeps – 1957

Zero Hour – 1957

Spring Reunion – 1957

The Crowded Sky – 1960

Crack in the World – 1965

The Loved One – 1965

The Frozen Dead – 1967

The Last Tycoon – 1976

FRED ASTAIRE

No one's idea of a leading man, circa 1930, but he did it with his flawless dancing, comic timing, and effortless style. Well into his eighties, women still wanted him to whirl them around the floor. Latter part of his career in character dramatic work.

- Flying Down to Rio – 1932
The Gay Divorcee – 1934
Top Hat – 1934
Roberta – 1935
Swing Time – 1936
A Damsel in Distress – 1937
Carefree – 1938
You'll Never Get Rich – 1941
Holiday Inn – 1942
You Were Never Lovelier – 1942
Easter Parade – 1946
The Barkleys of Broadway – 1947
Royal Wedding – 1951
The Band Wagon – 1953
Funny Face – 1957
On the Beach – 1959
Finian's Rainbow – 1968
The Towering Inferno – 1974

ANTONIO BANDERAS

Lean, handsome Spanish sex symbol mostly in adventure films and romantic comedies. Began as Almodovar regular, came to States soon after. Voice work includes a famous cat and a bee ad icon.

Laberinto de Pasiones – 1982

Matador – 1986

The Law of Desire – 1987

Women on the Verge ... Breakdown – 1988

Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down – 1990

The Mambo Kings – 1992

A Woman in the Rain – 1992

Philadelphia – 1993

Interview With The Vampire – 1994

Miami Rhapsody – 1995

Desperado – 1995

Evita – 1997

The Mark of Zorro – 1998

Spy Kids series – 2001 – 03

Legend of Zorro – 2005

Shrek sequels (voice) – 2006 - present

Bordertown – 2007

Puss in Boots (voice) – 2011

JOHN BARRYMORE

Handsome leading man of the American stage,
practically played himself in several roles as
alcoholic womanizer. Rarely got to do the classics
that had initially made him famous; more renowned
now as the grandpa of actress Drew.

The Dictator – 1915

Raffles – 1917

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – 1920

Sherlock Holmes – 1922

Beau Brummel – 1924

Don Juan – 1926

Svengali – 1931

Arsene Lupin – 1932

Grand Hotel – 1932

Bill of Divorcement – 1932

Dinner at Eight – 1933

Twentieth Century – 1934

Bulldog Drummond series – 1937

Marie Antoinette – 1938

The Great Man Votes – 1939

Midnight – 1939

ALAN BATES

British leader man of the 'angry young man' era of the early 1960's. Beefy and hairy, often played slacker heroes and sly bullies. Propensity to stoutness limited him to character work until his untimely death.

The Entertainer – 1959

Whistle Down the Wind – 1961

A Kind of Loving – 1962

Zorba the Greek – 1965

Georgy Girl – 1966

Far From the Madding Crowd – 1967

The Fixer – 1968

Women in Love – 1970

The Go-Between – 1972

Butley – 1974

An Unmarried Woman – 1978

The Rose – 1979

Nijinsky – 1980

An Englishman Abroad – 1981

Britannia Hospital – 1982

Duet for One – 1986

The Cherry Orchard – 1999

Gosford Park – 2001

WARREN BEATTY

Never that great an actor but every eye was on his handsome face and identification with his angst was a hallmark of the 60's and 70's. Showed real talent for direction but sadly did not stick with it. Now more or less known as Annette Bening's babydaddy.

Splendor in the Grass – 1961

All Fall Down – 1962

Lilith – 1965

Mickey One – 1965

Bonnie & Clyde – 1967

McCabe and Mrs. Miller – 1971

Dollars – 1972

The Parallax View – 1974

Shampoo – 1975

Heaven Can Wait – 1978

Reds – 1980

Ishtar – 1987

Dick Tracy – 1990

Bugsy – 1991

Love Affair – 1995

Town & Country – 1999

DIRK BOGARDE

Boyishly handsome British leading man got his start in charming romances and silly Doctor comic serial, then turned heads with impressive performance of a gay man blackmailed in homophobic 50's UK.

- Quartet** – 1948
So Long At the Fair – 1949
Blackmailed – 1951
Doctor In the House films – 1953-64
The Sleeping Tiger – 1954
The Spanish Gardener – 1956
A Tale of Two Cities – 1958
Libel – 1959
Song Without End – 1960
Victim – 1961
I Could Go On Singing – 1963
The Servant – 1964
Darling – 1965
Accident – 1967
Death in Venice – 1970
The Night Porter – 1974
A Bridge Too Far – 1977
Daddy Nostalgia – 1990

HUMPHREY BOGART

No-nonsense leading man was one of Hollywood's very best. Not traditionally handsome but deep voice with its slight lisp and forceful personality put him across as the thinking woman's leading man.

Long career cut tragically short by cancer.

The Petrified Forest – 1937

Marked Woman – 1937

Dark Victory – 1939

The Maltese Falcon – 1940

They Drive By Night – 1940

Across the Pacific – 1941

High Sierra – 1942

Casablanca – 1942

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre – 1943

To Have and Have Not – 1944

The Big Sleep – 1946

Dark Passage – 1947

Key Largo – 1948

The African Queen – 1952

Sabrina – 1954

Beat The Devil – 1954

The Caine Mutiny – 1954

We're No Angels – 1955

The Desperate Hours – 1955

MARLON BRANDO

King of the Methods, this often hammy, virile hunk
with the unfortunate reedy, effeminate voice
defined movie acting in the 1950's and early 60's,
but growing weight gain reduced him to
increasingly irrelevant character player.

- The Men** – 1950
A Streetcar Named Desire – 1951
Viva Zapata! – 1953
On The Waterfront – 1954
Guys and Dolls – 1954
The Wild One – 1955
 Sayonara – 1957
The Fugitive Kind – 1959
Mutiny on the Bounty – 1961
One-Eyed Jacks – 1964
Reflections in a Golden Eye – 1967
 The Comedians – 1969
The Godfather – 1972
Last Tango in Paris – 1974
 Apocalypse Now – 1979
 Don Juan DeMarco – 1990

GEORGE BRENT

Tall, handsome Irishman has been unfairly dismissed as colorless because so many actresses of stronger personalities liked working with him. Did usually play loyal romantic leads but was capable of a certain macho deviousness when needed.

Under Suspicion – 1930

So Big – 1932

The Purchase Price – 1932

Forty Second Street – 1933

The Painted Veil – 1934

Front Page Woman – 1935

Special Agent – 1935

Jezebel – 1938

Dark Victory – 1939

Gone With The Wind – 1939

The Rains Came – 1939

The Great Lie – 1941

In This Our Life – 1942

The Affairs of Susan – 1945

The Spiral Staircase – 1945

Lover Come Back – 1946

Luxury Liner – 1948

JEFF BRIDGES

Attractive lead who tends to play laid-back heroes and barely-repressed angry youngish men. Son and brother of character actors Lloyd and Beau, he is as unlike them as possible while retaining an earthiness found in few of his peers.

In Search of America (TV)– 1970

The Last Picture Show – 1971

Bad Company – 1972

The Iceman Cometh – 1973

Thunderbolt and Lightfoot – 1974

Hearts of the West – 1975

Winter Kills – 1979

Cutter's Way – 1981

Starman – 1984

The Morning After – 1986

Tucker, the Man & His Dream – 1987

The Fabulous Baker Boys – 1989

See You n the Morning – 1989

Texasville – 1990

The Fisher King – 1991

The Big Lebowski – 1996

The Contender – 1999

The Door in the Floor – 2004

Crazy Heart – 2009

RICHARD BURTON

Welsh star of the contemporary Shakespearean stage
came to H-wood during the Brando era and
reassured audiences that real acting was alive and
well. Began to blossom under long love affair with
Liz Taylor, began to fail after it.

My Cousin Rachel – 1952

The Desert Rats – 1953

Alexander the Great – 1956

Look Back in Anger – 1959

The Bramble Bush – 1959

Cleopatra – 1962

Becket – 1964

Night of the Iguana – 1964

The Sandpiper – 1965

The Spy Who Came In From the Cold – 1965

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? – 1966

The Taming of the Shrew – 1967

The Comedians – 1967

Where Eagles Dare – 1968

Anne of the Thousand Days – 1970

Divorce His, Divorce Hers – 1973

Equus – 1977

Absolution – 1979

JAMES CAGNEY

Feisty little Irish-American punk most famous as
either gangsters or song & dance men (!)
Occasionally stretched into journalists, soldiers, and
dyspeptic businessmen with varying success.

The Public Enemy – 1931

Footlight Parade – 1933

Lady Killer – 1933

Jimmy the Gent – 1934

G-Men – 1935

A Midsummer Night's Dream – 1935

Something to Sing About – 1937

Angels With Dirty Faces – 1938

The Roaring Twenties – 1939

The Bride Came C.O.D. – 1941

Yankee Doodle Dandy – 1942

Blood on the Sun – 1945

White Heat – 1949

Love Me or Leave Me – 1955

Mister Roberts – 1955

Man of a Thousand Faces – 1957

One... Two ... Three! – 1961

Ragtime – 1980

MICHAEL CAINE

Attractive Brit started out in leads but has made more of an impression over the years in supporting roles, from lovestruck accountants to shady docs.

The Ipcress File – 1965

Alfie – 1966

Gambit – 1966

The Magus – 1968

Get Carter – 1971

Sleuth – 1973

The Man Who Would Be King – 1976

California Suite – 1978

Dressed to Kill – 1980

Educating Rita – 1983

Mona Lisa – 1986

Hannah and Her Sisters – 1986

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels – 1988

A Shock to the System – 1990

Blood and Wine – 1995

Little Voice – 1997

The Cider House Rules – 1999

Batman - current film series

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Comedic king of the silent era who lost footing after sound came in, despite a few genuine highlights.

Kid Auto Races at Venice (Tramp debut) – 1914

Tillie's Punctured Romance – 1914

The Tramp – 1915

The Pawnshop – 1916

The Rink – 1916

A Dog's Life – 1918

The Kid – 1920

The Gold Rush – 1924

The Circus – 1928

City Lights – 1931

The Great Dictator – 1940

Monsieur Verdoux – 1947

Limelight – 1952

A King in New York – 1957

A Countess From Hong Kong – 1966

MONTGOMERY CLIFT

Another graduate of the Method, this slight, handsome man shined brightest in the 1950's with a series of sensitive roles. After a partially-disfiguring car accident, his roles began to diminish before dying of a heart ailment in 1966.

Red River – 1948

The Search – 1948

The Heiress – 1949

The Big Lift – 1950

A Place in the Sun – 1951

I Confess – 1953

From Here to Eternity – 1953

Indiscretion of an American Wife – 1955

Raintree County – 1957

The Young Lions – 1958

Lonelyhearts – 1959

Suddenly Last Summer – 1959

Wild River – 1960

Judgment At Nuremburg – 1961

The Misfits – 1962

Freud – 1963

The Defector – 1966

RONALD COLMAN

Sensitive, classically-trained British leading man from silent era to early 50's also starred as a college dean in the classy radio and TV comedy *The Halls of Ivy*, with wife Benita Hume.

- The White Sister** – 1923
Lady Windermere's Fan – 1925
The Dark Angel – 1925
Beau Geste – 1926
Bulldog Drummond – 1929
Raffles – 1930
Arrowsmith – 1934
A Tale of Two Cities – 1935
Lost Horizon – 1937
The Prisoner of Zenda – 1937
The Talk of the Town – 1942
Random Harvest – 1944
Kismet – 1944
A Double Life – 1947
The Late George Apley – 1947
Champagne for Caesar – 1950
The Story of Mankind – 1957

GARY COOPER

Tall, slim and handsome man who started in silents as a B-movie cowboy and stuntman, quickly moving into lead roles, always as the hero, often reluctant ones. Leading ladies began to get much younger as he aged, leading lapses of believability.

Wings – 1927

The Virginian – 1929

Morocco – 1931

A Farewell to Arms – 1932

Design for Living – 1933

Desire – 1935

Mr Deeds Goes To Town – 1936

Beau Geste – 1939

Meet John Doe – 1940

Sergeant York – 1941

Ball of Fire – 1942

Pride of the Yankees – 1943

For Whom the Bell Tolls – 1944

The Fountainhead – 1947

High Noon – 1951

Friendly Persuasion – 1954

Love in the Afternoon – 1955

JOSEPH COTTEN

Graduate of Welles' Mercury Theater, he was tall,
plain, & curly-haired, and often came off as
arrogant, effete, and / or sinister, but could also be
romantically tender.

Citizen Kane – 1940

The Magnificent Ambersons – 1941

Journey Into Fear – 1942

Shadow of a Doubt – 1942

Gaslight – 1942

Love Letters – 1943

I'll Be Seeing You – 1945

Duel in the Sun – 1946

The Farmer's Daughter – 1947

Portrait of Jennie – 1948

The Third Man – 1949

Beyond the Forest – 1949

Two Flags West – 1950

Niagara – 1952

The Killer is Loose – 1956

From the Earth to the Moon – 1957

Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte – 1964

Petulia – 1967

A Delicate Balance – 1973

Heaven's Gate – 1980

TOM CRUISE

Muscular, attractive, and short-statured movie star began in angry youth apprentice roles, moving on to more mature work, Best as an action hero.

- Risky Business – 1983
- All the Right Moves** – 1983
- Top Gun** – 1985
- The Color of Money – 1986
- Rain Man** – 1988
- Born On the 4th Of July** – 1989
- A Few Good Men** – 1992
- Far and Away – 1992
- Interview With The Vampire** – 1994
- Jerry Maguire** – 1996
- Mission Impossible** series– 1996-present
- Magnolia** – 1999
- Eyes Wide Shut – 1999
- Vanilla Sky** – 2001
- Minority Report** – 2002
- The Last Samurai – 2003
- Collateral – 2004
- War of the Worlds** – 2005
- Valkyrie** – 2008
- Oblivion – 2013

JEFF DANIELS

Attractive, well-built blond everyman from the stage has played errant husbands, cops, literary hoi polloi, clueless actors, arrogant news-anchors, morons, loving dads, gay boy-toys, etc.

- Ragtime – 1981
- The 5th of July** (TV) – 1982
- Terms of Endearment** – 1983
- The Purple Rose of Cairo** – 1985
 - Heartburn – 1986
- Something Wild** – 1986
 - Radio Days – 1987
- Arachnophobia** – 1990
- Dumb & Dumber – 1994
 - Speed – 1994
- 101 Dalmatians – 1996
- Fly Away Home** – 1996
 - Pleasantville – 1998
- The Hours** – 2002
- Gods & Generals** – 2003
- Imaginary Heroes** – 2004
- The Squid & the Whale** – 2005
 - Infamous – 2006
- The Newsroom** – 2012-

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS

Slim, dark English stage star who has had his hand
in *everything* from early on – gay punk, upper-class
twit, crippled poet, Native American hero,
incestuous dad, our greatest President...

Gandhi – 1983

The Bounty – 1984

My Beautiful Laundrette – 1985

A Room With A View – 1985

The Unbearable Lightness of Being – 1988

My Left Foot – 1989

Last of the Mohicans – 1992

The Age of Innocence – 1993

The Crucible – 1996

The Boxer – 1998

Gangs of New York – 2002

Ballad of Jack & Rose – 2005

There Will Be Blood – 2007

Lincoln – 2012

ROBERT DE NIRO

Former actor of note who apparently took career tips from Jack Nicholson but failed to attend his refresher course.

The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight – 1971

The Godfather, Part II – 1974

Taxi Driver – 1976

1900 – 1977

The Deer Hunter – 1979

Raging Bull – 1981

True Confessions – 1982

Falling in Love – 1984

The Mission – 1986

The Untouchables – 1987

Awakenings – 1990

Cape Fear – 1991

This Boy's Life – 1992

Night and the City – 1992

Heat – 1995

Great Expectations – 1996

Silver Linings Playbook – 2012

GERARD DEPARDIEU

Big ugly Frenchman was at one time referred to as the French DeNiro, his co-star in *1900*. Once you've stopped shuddering, check out the career of a guy who rarely sells out for H-wood Big Bucks.

Going Places – 1974

Stavisky – 1974

1900 – 1976

Get Out Your Handkerchiefs – 1978

Le Dernier Metro – 1980

Danton – 1982

The Return of Martin Guerre – '82

The Moon in the Gutter – 1984

La Tartuffe – 1984

Jean de Florette – 1985

Camille Claudel – 1988

Too Beautiful For You – 1989

Cyrano de Bergerac – 1990

Germinal – 1993

Unhook the Stars – 1996

Man in the Iron Mask – 1998

City of Ghosts – 2002

Last Holiday – 2005

KIRK DOUGLAS

Craggy hunk of many quality, hard-hitting roles of the late 40's – mid 60's. Drifted into bill-paying dreck, Points for sticking by his guns and breaking the studio blacklist by hiring Dalton Trumbo in '60.

The Strange Love of Martha Ivers – 1947

Out of the Past – 1948

A Letter to Three Wives – 1949

Young Man With A Horn – 1950

The Glass Menagerie – 1951

Ace in the Hole – 1952

Detective Story – 1952

The Bad & The Beautiful – 1954

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea – 1956

Ulysses – 1957

Lust For Life – 1958

Paths of Glory – 1959

Strangers When We Meet – 1960

Spartacus – 1960

Seven Days in May – 1964

RICHARD DREYFUSS

Has always had a devious-boy-next-door quality to his onscreen persona. Not afraid to play an unlikeable hero, but can charm you with a loveable one. Age has him sliding into character work.

Hello Down There – 1969

American Graffiti – 1973

Jaws – 1974

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz – 1975
Inserts – 1976

The Goodbye Girl – 1977

Close Encounters of the Third Kind – 1977

The Competition – 1980

Whose Life is it Anyway? – 1981

Stand By Me (narr.) – 1986

Down and Out in Beverly Hills – 1986

Tin Men – 1987

Stakeout – 1987

Always – 1989

What About Bob? – 1991

Mr Holland's Opus – 1995

Silver City – 2004

Poseidon – 2006

ROBERT DUVALL

Tall, balding poker-faced character lead with a kind of running mean-streak in his acting. Rarely plays totally nice guys, usually has something threatening to slow burn or just bubble over.

To Kill A Mockingbird – 1962

Bullitt – 1968

The Rain People – 1969

M*A*S*H – 1970

THX 1138 – 1971

The Godfather – 1972

The Conversation – 1974

Network – 1976

The Seven-Per-Cent Solution – 1976

Apocalypse Now – 1979

The Great Santini – 1979

Tender Mercies – 1983

The Natural – 1984

Colors – 1988

The Handmaid's Tale – 1990

Rambling Rose – 1991

The Apostle – 1997

Deep Impact – 1998

John Q – 2002

CLINT EASTWOOD

Gaunt, attractive movie star of westerns and one particular outlaw cop role, always the hero.
Became a competent director* of similar themes.

Lafayette Escadrille – 1958

A Fistful of Dollars – 1964

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly – 1966

Where Eagles Dare – 1969

Two Mules for Sister Sara – 1970

The Beguiled – 1971

Play Misty For Me – 1971*

Dirty Harry & sequels – 1971 – 1988

High Plains Drifter – 1973*

Thunderbolt and Lightfoot – 1974

The Outlaw Josey Wales – 1976

The Gauntlet – 1977

Every Which Way You Can – 1978

Escape From Alcatraz – 1979

Pale Rider – 1983*

Pink Cadillac – 1989

White Hunter, Black Heart – 1990*

Unforgiven – 1991*

In the Line of Fire – 1993

Bridges of Madison County – 1995*

Space Cowboys – 2000*

Million Dollar Baby – 2002*

RALPH FIENNES

Slender, subtly virile romantic lead (pronounced Rafe Fines) who has been branching out into more gritty work as once-boyish looks have faded.

Wuthering Heights – 1991

Schindler's List – 1993

Quiz Show – 1994

Strange Days – 1995

The English Patient – 1996

Oscar & Lucinda – 1997

The End of the Affair – 1999

Spider – 2002

The Constant Gardener – 2005

Harry Potter films (as villain) – 2005-10

Land of the Blind – 2006

Bernard & Doris – 2007

In Bruges – 2008

ALBERT FINNEY

Husky, handsome, British leading man whose machismo is rarely over-the-top, often in romances both comic and melodramatic, as well as adventure, historical, sci-fi, and mysteries.

Saturday Night & Sunday Morning – 1960

Tom Jones – 1963

Night Must Fall – 1963

The Victors – 1963

Two For The Road – 1967

Charlie Bubbles – 1968

Gumshoe – 1971

Murder on the Orient Express – 1974

The Duellists – 1977

Wolfen – 1980

Looker – 1980

Annie – 1982

Shoot the Moon – 1982

The Dresser – 1983

Under the Volcano – 1984

The Playboys – 1992

Washington Square – 1997

Erin Brockovich – 2000

Churchill biopic (HBO)

Big Fish – 2003

LAURENCE FISHBURNE

Tall, striking-looking actor with stage experience began serious career in Coppola's best picture after lying about his age (17) at time of filming. Great at both anti-heroes and vain brutes; weight gain has relegated him to series television of varying quality.

Apocalypse Now – 1979

Rumble Fish – 1983

The Cotton Club – 1984

The Color Purple – 1985

Gardens of Stone – 1987

A Nightmare on Elm Street III – 1987

School Daze – 1988

Boyz N the Hood – 1991

Deep Cover – 1992

What's Love Got To Do With It? – 1993

Othello – 1995

Event Horizon – 1997

The Matrix – 1999

Mystic River – 2003

Bobby – 2006

ERROL FLYNN

Athletic Aussie hearthrob of many adventure epics and the occasional romance. Legendary skirt-chaser and heavy drinker off-screen, which began to take its toll onscreen, leading to early death.

The Charge of the Light Brigade – 1935

Captain Blood – 1935

The Prince & the Pauper – 1937

The Adventures of Robin Hood – 1938

The Dawn Patrol – 1938

Dodge City – 1939

The Private Lives of Elizabeth & Essex – 1939

The Sea Hawk – 1940

They Died With Their Boots On – 1941

Gentleman Jim – 1942

Objective: Burma – 1945

That Forsyte Woman – 1947

Against All Flags – 1952

The Sun Also Rises – 1957

Too Much Too Soon – 1958

HENRY FONDA

Sensitive, yet firmly masculine leading man who veered towards social-issue films focusing on poverty, mob rule, politics, and human decency. A dozen priceless performances culminating in first and only Oscar in his mid-70's

- .Jezebel** – 1937
- Jesse James – 1938
- Young Mr Lincoln** – 1939
- The Grapes of Wrath** – 1940
- The Lady Eve** – 1941
- The Big Street – 1942
- The Ox-Bow Incident** – 1943
- My Darling Clementine** – 1946
- Fort Apache – 1948
- Mister Roberts** – 1955
- War and Peace – 1956
- 12 Angry Men** – 1957
- Advise and Consent** – 1961
- Spencer's Mountain – 1963
- Fail-Safe** – 1964
- The Best Man** – 1964
- Yours Mine & Ours** – 1968
- Once Upon A Time in the West – 1969
- On Golden Pond** – 1981

GLENN FORD

Attractive Canadian tough 'n' tender guy who played his share of cowboys, cops, and dads. Talent for taming leading ladies like Hayworth & Davis made him envy of millions of men in the late 40's.

Men Without Souls – 1940

The Adventures of Martin Eden – 1942

Destroyer – 1944

Gilda – 1946

A Stolen Life – 1946

Convicted – 1950

Affair in Trinidad – 1952

The Big Heat – 1953

The Blackboard Jungle – 1955

Interrupted Melody - 1955

Ransom – 1956

3:10 to Yuma – 1957

The Gazebo – 1959

Experiment in Terror – 1962

The Courtship of Eddie's Father – 1964

Midway – 1976

Superman – 1978

JFK – 1991

HARRISON FORD

Reluctant leading man, the Errol Flynn of his generation, also no stranger to *ze grass* but outside of his often lethargic performances, effects aren't as deleterious to his career to date.

Zabriskie Point – 1970

American Graffiti – 1973

The Conversation – 1974

Star Wars franchise – 1977 - 83

Indiana Jones franchise – 1981 – 2007

Blade Runner – 1981

Witness – 1985

The Mosquito Coast – 1987

Frantic – 1987

Working Girl – 1988

Regarding Henry – 1991

Patriot Games – 1992

The Fugitive – 1993

Air Force One – 1997

What Lies Beneath – 2000

K-19: The Widowmaker – 2002

MORGAN FREEMAN

Generally thought of as a lead but best work has been in support – noble presidents, God, vicious street thugs, teachers, and loyal sidekicks.

Eyewitness – 1980

Teachers – 1984

Street Smart – 1987

Clean and Sober – 1988

Driving Miss Daisy – 1989

Glory – 1989

Lean On Me – 1989

Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves – 1991

Unforgiven – 1992

The Shawshank Redemption – 1994

Seven – 1995

Moll Flanders – 1996

Deep Impact – 1998

Bruce Almighty – 2003

Million Dollar Baby – 2004

The Bucket List – 2007

Gone Baby Gone – 2007

The Dark Knight – 2008

JEAN GABIN

France's answer to Spencer Tracy only made two minor American films but at home he was a hero in several influential films from the 30's on.

- Mephisto – 1931
- Maria Chapdelaine – 1934
- Pepe le Moko** – 1937
- La Grande Illusion** – 1937
- Le Bete Humaine – 1938
- Port of Shadows** – 1938
- La Jour se Leve** – 1939
- Remorques – 1941
- Moontide** – 1942
- The Imposter – 1944
- The Room Upstairs – 1946
- Touchez Pas au Grisbi** – 1954
- Inspector Maigret** – 1958
- A Monkey in Winter – 1962
- The Sicilian Clan – 1969
- Le Chat** – 1972

CLARK GABLE

King of H-wood started out in gigolo and gangster roles before settling down into patented sleek, studly hero character way past his due-date

The Merry Widow – 1925

North Star – 1926

Night Nurse – 1931

Possessed – 1932

Red Dust – 1932

It Happened One Night – 1934

Manhattan Melodrama – 1934

Mutiny on the Bounty – 1935

China Seas – 1935

San Francisco – 1936

Test Pilot – 1938

Gone With The Wind – 1939

Boomtown – 1940

The Hucksters – 1947

Command Decision – 1948

Mogambo – 1953

Teacher's Pet – 1958

Run Silent, Run Deep – 1958

The Misfits – 1961

JOHN GARFIELD

The godfather of future 'openly-Jewish' leading men
was this short-statured man of average good looks
and determined personality. Blacklisting by slimy
HUAC led to early death due to heart ailment.

Four Daughters – 1938

They Made Me A Criminal – 1939

Dust Be My Destiny – 1939

Saturday's Children – 1940

The Sea Wolf – 1941

Tortilla Flat – 1942

Between Two Worlds – 1944

Destination Tokyo – 1944

The Postman Always Rings Twice – 1946

Humoresque – 1946

Body and Soul – 1947

Gentleman's Agreement – 1947

We Were Strangers – 1948

The Breaking Point – 1950

JAMES GARNER

Handsome star of many light comedies and adventure flicks acts with an easy grin and intelligent demeanor leaning to self-deprecation.
Squire to many lovely leading ladies.

- Sayonara – 1957
- Up Periscope – 1959
- Cash McCall** – 1959
- The Great Escape** – 1963
- The Thrill of It All – 1963
- Move Over, Darling** – 1963
- The Americanization of Emily** – 1964
- The Art of Love – 1965
- Grand Prix** – 1966
- Mister Buddwing – 1966
- The Pink Jungle** – 1968
- Support Your Local Sheriff** – 1969
- The Skin Game** – 1971
- They Only Kill Their Masters – 1972
- Victor/Victoria** – 1982
- Murphy's Romance** – 1985
- Maverick – 1994
- Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood – 2002
- The Notebook** – 2004

RICHARD GERE

Laid-back, sexy, slightly dangerous leading man
with up and down career of mostly mediocre work
interspersed with genuine quality performances.

Baby Blue Marine – 1976

Looking For Mr. Goodbar – 1977

Days of Heaven – 1978

Yanks – 1979

American Gigolo – 1980

An Officer and a Gentleman – 1982

Breathless – 1983

The Cotton Club – 1984

Power 1986

Miles From Home 1988

Internal Affairs – 1990

Pretty Woman – 1990

Sommersby – 1992

Intersection – 1994

Primal Fear – 1996

Runaway Bride – 1999

Unfaithful – 2002

Chicago – 2002

Nights in Rodanthe – 2007

CARY GRANT

Not just the handsomest, most charming leading man in film history but also a damn good actor. Sophisticated comedy, as well as taut suspense work, was his forte. Watch, study.

She Done Him Wrong – 1933

The Awful Truth – 1937

Bringing Up Baby - 1938

Holiday – 1938

Gunga Din – 1939

Only Angels Have Wings – 1938

His Girl Friday – 1940

The Philadelphia Story – 1941

Suspicion – 1941

Destination Tokyo – 1943

Notorious – 1946

The Bachelor and the Bobbysoxer – 1947

Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House – 1948

The Bishop's Wife – 1948

Monkey Business – 1952

To Catch A Thief – 1955

An Affair to Remember – 1957

North by Northwest – 1959

That Touch of Mink – 1962

Charade – 1963

GENE HACKMAN

Tall, balding character whose star rose later than most with the bang of a superb cop thriller.
Working steadily ever since, lately in offbeat indies.

Bonnie & Clyde – 1967

Downhill Racer – 1969

I Never Sang For My Father – 1969

Marooned – 1970

The French Connection – 1971

The Poseidon Adventure – 1972

Young Frankenstein – 1974

Lucky Lady – 1975

Night Moves – 1976

All Night Long – 1981

Under Fire – 1983

Twice In A Lifetime – 1985

Hoosiers – 1986

Another Woman – 1988

Mississippi Burning – 1988

Unforgiven – 1992

Crimson Tide – 1995

The Birdcage – 1996

The Royal Tenenbaums – 2001

Heartbreakers – 2001

Runaway Jury – 2003

TOM HANKS

His career is one of the great sea-changes of show biz, from often silly stand-up comic to serious leading man, producer of quality media, and various good causes, quite possibly due to influence of second wife and occasional co-star, Rita Wilson.

Splash – 1984

Volunteers – 1985

Nothing In Common – 1986

Big – 1988

Punchline – 1988

Joe Versus the Volcano – 1990

A League of Their Own – 1992

Sleepless in Seattle – 1992

Philadelphia – 1993

Forrest Gump – 1994

Apollo 13 – 1995

Saving Private Ryan – 1998

You've Got Mail – 1998

The Green Mile – 1999

Cast Away – 2000

Road to Perdition – 2002

The Terminal – 2004

The Da Vinci Code – 2006

Charlie Wilson's War – 2007

REX HARRISON

Strident, hard-looking, theater-trained Brit who specialized in efficient, no-nonsense types.

The School for Scandal – 1930

Storm in a Teacup – 1937

St. Martin's Lane – 1938

Night Train to Munich – 1940

Major Barbara – 1940

Blithe Spirit – 1945

Anna and the King of Siam – 1946

The Ghost and Mrs. Muir – 1947

Unfaithfully Yours – 1948

The Fourposter – 1952

The Constant Husband – 1955

Midnight Lace – 1960

Cleopatra – 1962

My Fair Lady – 1964

Doctor Dolittle – 1967

A Flea In Her Ear – 1968

The Prince and the Pauper – 1977

A Time to Die – 1979

VAN HEFLIN

Homely blond stud who almost always got the girl
was a hero to many post-WWII vets as a he-man
with a conscience ...sometimes.

The Outcasts of Poker Flat – 1937

The Santa Fe Trail – 1940

The Feminine Touch – 1941

Johnny Eager – 1941

Kid Glove Killer – 1942

Tennessee Johnson – 1942

The Strange Love of Martha Ivers – 1946

Possessed – 1947

B.F.'s Daughter – 1948

The Prowler – 1951

Count Three and Pray – 1955

Patterns – 1956

3:10 for Yuma – 1957

They Came to Cordura – 1959

Cry Battle – 1963

Airport – 1969

The Last Child – 1971

PAUL HENREID

Tall, elegant Austrian blond who set hearts aflutter when he lit a cigarette for Bette Davis in one of his most famous and best roles; later a director*.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips – 1939

Night Train to Munich – 1940

Casablanca – 1942

Now, Voyager – 1942

The Spanish Main – 1945

Devotion – 1946

Deception – 1946

Song of Love – 1947

The Scar* – 1948

For Men Only* – 1951

Deep in My Heart – 1954

A Woman's Devotion* – 1957

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse – 1962

Dead Ringer – 1964*

The Madwoman of Chaillot – 1969

CHARLTON HESTON

Craggy, passionate actor who almost always played likeable heroes, even in bad Spanish accents. At mid-career made several cult-classic sci-fi flicks, followed by films of varying quality til final days.

Dark City – 1950

The Greatest Show on Earth – 1952

The Naked Jungle – 1954

The Private War of Major Benson – 1955

The Ten Commandments – 1956

Touch of Evil – 1958

Ben Hur – 1959

Major Dundee – 1965

Khartoum – 1966

Planet of the Apes – 1967

Will Penney – 1968

The Hawaiians – 1970

The Omega Man – 1971

Soylent Green – 1973

Earthquake – 1973

The Three Musketeers – 1973

Gray Lady Down – 1977

Tombstone – 1993

Hamlet – 1996

Town & Country – 1999

DUSTIN HOFFMAN

Short, with a prominent proboscis and a mop of dark brown hair, he seemed an unlikely romantic lead at first sight. Being one of the best actors of his generation helped put this across, picking up two Oscars and earning several nominations.

- The Graduate** – 1967
- Midnight Cowboy** – 1969
- Little Big Man** – 1970
- Straw Dogs – 1972
- Papillion** – 1973
- Lenny** – 1975
- All The President's Men** – 1976
- Straight Time – 1978
- Kramer Vs Kramer** – 1980
- Tootsie – 1983
- Death of a Salesman – 1985
- Rain Man** – 1988
- Dick Tracy – 1990
- Billy Bathgate** – 1991
- Hook – 1991
- Outbreak** – 1995
- Wag the Dog** – 1997
- Finding Neverland – 2004

WILLIAM HOLDEN

Handsome, generally easy-going everyman adept at romance and adventure, later displayed a fine sense of coal-black humor and world-weariness.

Golden Boy – 1939

Our Town – 1940

The Fleet's In – 1942

Dear Ruth – 1947

Rachel and the Stranger – 1948

Miss Grant Takes Richmond – 1949

Sunset Boulevard – 1950

Born Yesterday – 1951

Stalag 17 – 1953

Sabrina – 1954

The Country Girl – 1955

Picnic – 1956

The Bridge on the River Kwai – 1957

The World of Suzie Wong – 1960

Paris When It Sizzles – 1964

The Wild Bunch – 1969

The Towering Inferno – 1974

Network – 1976

S.O.B. – 1981

BOB HOPE

Ski-nosed stand-up of stage, screen, and radio who soloed and co-starred with Bing Crosby in a number of classic comedies. Quality waned in the 1960's.

- Thanks for the Memory – 1938
The Cat and the Canary – 1939
The Road to Singapore – 1940
The Ghost Breakers – 1940
The Road to Zanzibar – 1941
My Favorite Blonde – 1942
The Road to Morocco – 1942
They Got Me Covered – 1942
Road to Utopia – 1945
Monsieur Beaucaire – 1946
My Favorite Brunette – 1947
Road to Rio – 1948
The Paleface – 1948
Fancy Pants – 1950
The Lemon Drop Kid – 1951
The Road to Bali – 1952
Casanova's Big Night – 1954
The Seven Little Foys – 1954
The Facts of Life – 1960
Road to Hong Kong – 1962
Critic's Choice – 1963

LESLIE HOWARD

Slender, blond, British aesthete who in reality was a noted ladies' man and eventually, genuine WWII hero who gave his life for his country.

Outward Bound – 1930

Devotion – 1931

Smilin' Through – 1932

The Animal Kingdom – 1932

Berkeley Square – 1933

Of Human Bondage – 1934

British Agent – 1934

The Scarlet Pimpernel – 1935

The Petrified Forest – 1936

Romeo and Juliet – 1936

It's Love I'm After – 1936

Pygmalion – 1938

Gone With the Wind – 1939

Intermezzo – 1939

Pimpernel Smith – 1941

49th Parallel – 1941

The First of A Few – 1942

WILLIAM HURT

Handsome, virile lead, with thinning blond hair and studied demeanor was most popular in the 80's but now does more in the way of character work.

Altered States – 1980

Eyewitness – 1981

Body Heat – 1981

The Big Chill – 1983

Gorky Park – 1983

Kiss of the Spider Woman – 1985

Children of a Lesser God – 1986

Broadcast News – 1987

The Accidental Tourist – 1988

Alice – 1990

The Doctor – 1991

Until the End of the World – 1992

The Plague – 1992

Smoke – 1995

One True Thing – 1998

A.I. – 2001

The Village – 2004

A History of Violence – 2005

Into the Wild – 2007

VAN JOHNSON

Muscular redhead who played soldiers and romantic leads in both melodrama and comedy.

Dr. Gillespie's New Assistant – 1942

The Human Comedy – 1943

A Guy Named Joe – 1943

The White Cliffs of Dover – 1944

Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo – 1944

Weekend at the Waldorf – 1945

State of the Union – 1948

In the Good Old Summertime – 1949

Battleground – 1950

When in Rome – 1952

The Caine Mutiny – 1954

Brigadoon – 1955

The Last Time I Saw Paris – 1955

The End of the Affair – 1955

Miracle in the Rain – 1956

23 Paces to Baker Street – 1957

Subway in the Sky – 1960

Divorce American Style – 1967

Yours Mine & Ours – 1968

Rich Man, Poor Man (TV) – 1976

The Purple Rose of Cairo – 1985

BORIS KARLOFF

Dark-eyed, brooding Brit of many a popular horror films began in silents and also played gangsters as well as later kidding his own most famous roles.

The Last of the Mohicans – 1920

Parisian Nights – 1925

The Bells – 1926

The Criminal Code – 1930

Frankenstein – 1931

Scarface – 1932

The Old Dark House – 1932

The Mask of Fu Manchu – 1932

The House of Rothschild – 1934

The Black Cat – 1934

The Bride of Frankenstein – 1935

The Raven – 1935

Mr Wong, Detective – 1938

Tower of London – 1939

The Body Snatcher – 1945

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty – 1947

Abbott and Costello Meet the Killer – 1949

Corridors of Blood – 1958

The Terror – 1963

Targets – 1968

BUSTER KEATON

Eternally sad-faced master of silent slapstick later trained Lucille Ball in that particular fine art, leading to his own career revival in 1950's.

One Week – 1920

The Haunted House – 1921

The Playhouse – 1922

The Boat – 1922

The Electric House – 1922

Our Hospitality – 1923

Sherlock Junior – 1924

The Navigator – 1924

The General – 1927

Steamboat Bill Jr. – 1927

The Cameraman – 1928

Parlor Bedroom & Bath – 1931

San Diego, I Love You – 1944

In the Good Old Summertime – 1949

Sunset Boulevard – 1950

Limelight – 1952

Around the World in 80 Days – 1956

Huckleberry Finn – 1960

It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World – 1963

Beach Blanket Bingo – 1964

A Funny Thing Happened ... Forum – 1966

HOWARD KEEL

Beefy crooner of many 50's musicals who also starred in westerns and one sci-fi classic.

Annie Get Your Gun – 1950

Pagan Love Song – 1950

Showboat – 1951

Callaway Went Thataway – 1951

Desperate Search – 1952

Ride, Vaquero! – 1953

Calamity Jane – 1953

Kiss Me Kate – 1953

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers – 1954

Deep in My Heart – 1954

Jupiter's Darling – 1954

Kismet – 1955

Floods of Fear – 1958

Armed Command – 1961

Day of the Triffids – 1963

Waco – 1966

Red Tomahawk – 1967

GENE KELLY

Where Astaire had style, Kelly had athletic grace, often doing his own complicated stunts. He also had the edge of being a good-looking fellow who was an effective romantic lead.

For Me And My Gal – 1942

DuBarry Was A Lady – 1943

Cover Girl – 1944

Anchors Aweigh – 1945

The Pirate – 1948

The Three Musketeers – 1948

Take Me Out to the Ballgame – 1949

On The Town – 1949

Summer Stock – 1950

An American in Paris – 1951

Singin' in the Rain – 1952

The Devil Makes Three – 1953

Brigadoon – 1954

Invitation to the Dance – 1956

Les Girls – 1957

Marjorie Morningstar – 1957

Inherit the Wind – 1961

What A Way to Go! – 1964

The Young Girls of Rochefort – 1967

Forty Carats – 1973

KEVIN KLINE

Devilishly handsome stage star who works in both heavy drama and light comedy with ease. A few duds along the way but he's generally enjoyable.

- Sophie's Choice** – 1982
The Big Chill – 1983
Silverado – 1985
Cry Freedom – 1987
A Fish Called Wanda – 1988
The January Man – 1989
I Love You To Death – 1990
Soapdish – 1991
Grand Canyon – 1991
Consenting Adults – 1992
Dave – 1992
Princess Caraboo – 1993
French Kiss – 1995
The Ice Storm – 1997
In & Out – 1997
Fierce Creatures – 1997
Wild Wild West – 1999
Life As A House – 2001
De-Lovely – 2004
A Prairie Home Companion – 2006

ALAN LADD

Short, blond, generally just adequate actor of little emotion but had a special appeal due to his good looks and heroic roles in westerns & mysteries.

The Howards of Virginia – 1940

This Gun For Hire – 1942

The Glass Key – 1942

The Blue Dahlia – 1946

Two Years Before the Mast – 1947

Whispering Smith – 1948

The Great Gatsby – 1949

Captain Carey USA – 1950

Appointment With Danger – 1951

Shane – 1953

Hell Below Zero – 1954

Boy On A Dolphin – 1957

The Deep Six – 1958

All The Young Men – 1960

The Carpetbaggers – 1964

BURT LANCASTER

Formerr circus acrobat who did a lot of his own stunts in action features; also great as dynamic heroic or anti-heroic soldiers, cowboys, thugs, et al.

- The Killers** – 1946
Brute Force – 1947
Sorry, Wrong Number – 1948
Kiss the Blood Off My Hands – 1948
All My Sons – 1948
The Flame and the Arrow – 1950
From Here to Eternity – 1953
Apache – 1954
Vera Cruz – 1954
The Kentuckian – 1955
Gunfight at the O.K. Corral – 1957
Sweet Smell of Success – 1957
Elmer Gantry – 1960
Judgment at Nuremburg – 1961
Birdman of Alcatraz – 1962
Seven Days in May – 1964
The Swimmer – 1967
Valdez is Coming – 1971
The Midnight Man – 1974
Atlantic City – 1980
Local Hero – 1983

JACK LEMMON

Lovable everyman eventually got a little too grumpy for his own good. Specialist at nervous or neurotic types, concerned citizens, and b.s. artists.

It Should Happen To You – 1953

Phfft! – 1954

My Sister Eileen – 1955

Mister Roberts – 1955

Operation Mad Ball – 1957

Bell, Book & Candle – 1958

It Happened to Jane – 1959

The Apartment – 1960

Days of Wine and Roses – 1962

The Great Race – 1965

The Fortune Cookie – 1966

The Odd Couple – 1968

The Out-of-Towners – 1969

Save The Tiger – 1973

The Prisoner of 2nd Avenue – 1975

The China Syndrome – 1979

Missing – 1980

Mass Appeal – 1984

Glengarry, Glen Ross – 1992

Short Cuts – 1993

My Fellow Americans – 1996

FRED MACMURRAY

Really fine leading man before slow descent into Disney treacle. Mostly good guys, and a few memorable bad guys, including four with Stanwyck.

The Gilded Lily – 1935

Alice Adams – 1935

Hands Across The Table – 1935

The Trail of Lonesome Pine – 1936

Sing You Sinners – 1938

Remember the Night – 1940

Dive Bomber – 1941

Take a Letter, Darling – 1942

Double Indemnity – 1944

The Egg and I – 1947

The Miracle of the Bells – 1948

Borderline – 1950

The Caine Mutiny – 1954

Pushover – 1954

The Shaggy Dog – 1959

The Apartment – 1960

The Absent-Minded Professor – 1961

Kisses For My President – 1964

Follow Me, Boys! – 1966

FREDRIC MARCH

Slight, balding, theater-trained leading man with deep voice of authority and adept in high-quality romantic comedy and historical drama.

The Wild Party – 1929

The Royal Family of Broadway – 1930

My Sin – 1931

Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – 1932

The Affairs of Cellini – 1934

Design for Living – 1934

Death Takes A Holiday – 1934

Les Miserables – 1935

Anna Karenina – 1935

A Star is Born – 1937

Nothing Sacred – 1937

Susan and God – 1940

Bedtime Story – 1942

The Best Years of Our Lives – 1946

Another Part of the Forest – 1948

Death of a Salesman – 1952

Executive Suite – 1954

The Desperate Hours – 1955

Inherit the Wind – 1960

Seven Days in May – 1964

The Iceman Cometh – 1973

GROUCHO MARX

Also brothers Chico and Harpo in the films they did as a team, as well as his few solo projects, he was one of the funniest guys ever on film.

King of the smart-ass one - liners,

The Cocoanuts – 1929

Animal Crackers – 1930

Monkey Business – 1931

Horsefeathers – 1932

Duck Soup – 1933

A Night At The Opera – 1935

A Day at the Races – 1937

Room Service – 1938

At The Circus – 1939

Go West – 1940

The Big Store – 1941

A Night in Casablanca – 1946

A Girl in Every Port – 1952

You Bet Your Life (TV) – 1956-61

JAMES MASON

Short but handsome and muscular Brit with distinctive, almost dismissive line delivery in many adventures and romance classics.

Fire Over England – 1936

The Night Has Eyes – 1942

The Man in Grey – 1943

The Seventh Veil – 1945

Pandora and the Flying Dutchman – 1951

The Desert Fox – 1951

Five Fingers – 1952

Botany Bay – 1953

A Star is Born – 1954

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea – 1954

Forever Darling – 1956

Journey to the Center of the Earth – 1959

The Pumpkin Eater – 1964

Georgy Girl – 1966

Frankenstein: The True Story (TV) – 1973

The Last of Sheila – 1973

The Verdict – 1982

The Shooting Party – 1984

JOEL MCCREA

Handsome blond who always seemed a little
reluctant in his roles, from romantics to satire. Most
at home in westerns where he was usually the hero.

The Most Dangerous Game – 1932

Our Little Girl – 1935

These Three – 1936

Come and Get It – 1936

Dead End – 1937

Foreign Correspondent – 1940

Sullivan's Travels – 1941

The Palm Beach Story – 1942

The More The Merrier – 1943

Buffalo Bill – 1944

The Virginian – 1946

Colorado Territory – 1949

Stars in My Crown – 1950

Border River – 1954

The Oklahoman – 1957

Ride the High Country – 1962

EWAN MCGREGOR

Lanky Scot who is not afraid to literally bare all to get his point across. Outside of young Obi-Wan Kenobi, he tends to play the lower classes and a variety of small-time losers

Shallow Grave – 1994

Brassed Off – 1996

Trainspotting – 1996

A Life Less Ordinary – 1997

Velvet Goldmine – 1998

Little Voice – 1998

Star Wars, Episode I - 3- 1999 - 2005

Black Hawk Down – 2001

Moulin Rouge! – 2001

Big Fish – 2003

Young Adam – 2003

The Island – 2005

The Tourist – 2007

Number Thirteen – 2008

Beginners – 2011

STEVE MCQUEEN

Hard-living, on and off the screen, hero of the 60's who succumbed to cancer in the early 80's. Shadow still looms over subsequent & lesser wannabes.

The Blob – 1958

The Magnificent Seven – 1960

Hell is For Heroes – 1961

The Great Escape – 1963

Soldier in the Rain – 1963

Love With the Proper Stranger – 1964

Baby, the Rain Must Fall – 1965

The Sand Pebbles – 1966

The Thomas Crown Affair – 1968

Bullitt – 1968

The Reivers – 1970

The Getaway – 1972

Papillon – 1973

The Towering Inferno – 1974

An Enemy of the People – 1976

Tom Horn – 1980

ROBERT MITCHUM

Lazy-eyed, slender he-man of a hundred soldier,
cowboy, thief, detective, bully, and dad dramas.
Comedies few and far between.

Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo – 1944

The Story of G.I. Joe – 1945

Undercurrent – 1946

Crossfire – 1947

Out of the Past – 1947

Rachel and the Stranger – 1948

The Red Pony – 1949

Holiday Affair – 1949

His Kind of Woman – 1951

River of No Return – 1954

Night of the Hunter – 1955

Thunder Road – 1958

The Sundowners – 1960

Cape Fear – 1962

The Way West – 1967

Ryan's Daughter – 1971

The Friends of Eddie Coyle – 1973

Farewell My Lovely – 1974

That Championship Season – 1982

The Winds of War (TV) – 1983

Scrooged – 1988

BILL MURRAY

Essentially a high-class clown of the Chaplin variety, generally doesn't care what people think.

Even his weak films, and that includes the pretentious art-house ones, are watchable for a few.

Meatballs – 1979

Caddyshack – 1980

Stripes – 1982

Tootsie – 1982

Ghostbusters I & II – 1984 & '89

The Razor's Edge – 1984

Little Shop of Horrors – 1986

Scrooged – 1988

Quick Change – 1990

What About Bob? – 1991

Groundhog Day – 1992

Ed Wood – 1994

The Man Who Knew Too Little – 1997

Cradle Will Rock – 1999

Osmosis Jones – 2001

Lost in Translation – 2003

Garfield films (voice) – 2004-06

Broken Flowers – 2005

City of Ember – 2008

LIAM NEESON

Stage-trained giant of an Irishman started out in smart, serious drama but has kind of devolved into American action hero. Bring back the stage, man.
Widower of Tony-winner Natasha Richardson.

Excalibur – 1981

Krull – 1983

Suspect – 1987

Lamb – 1986

Darkman – 1990

Ethan Frome – 1993

Schindler's List – 1993

Nell – 1994

Rob Roy – 1995

Les Miserables – 1997

Star Wars Episode I – 1999

Gangs of New York – 2002

Love Actually – 2003

Kinsey – 2004

The Chronicles of Narnia (voice) – 2005-08

Batman Begins – 2006

Taken – 2008

PAUL NEWMAN

Handsome, blue-eyed hero who wasn't above playing losers. Several films with wife Joanne Woodward, some of them quite good.

The Silver Chalice – 1954

Somebody Up There Likes Me – 1956

The Long Hot Summer – 1958

Rally Round the Flag, Boys! – 1958

Cat On A Hot Tin Roof – 1959

Exodus – 1960

Paris Blues – 1961

The Hustler – 1961

Hud – 1963

Harper – 1966

Torn Curtain – 1966

Cool Hand Luke – 1967

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – 1969

Judge Roy Bean – 1972

The Sting – 1973

Slap Shot – 1977

The Verdict – 1982

Absence of Malice – 1982

The Color of Money – 1986

Mr and Mrs Bridge – 1990

Nobody's Fool – 1994

JACK NICHOLSON

Current King of H-wood absolutely owned the 70's, backslid via commercial trash through most of 80's, came back to actual acting in the 90's.

Little Shop of Horrors – 1962

The Terror – 1963

Easy Rider – 1969

Five Easy Pieces – 1970

Carnal Knowledge – 1971

The King of Marvin Gardens – 1972

The Last Detail – 1973

Chinatown – 1974

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – 1975

Goin' South – 1978

The Shining – 1980

Reds – 1981

Terms of Endearment – 1983

Ironweed – 1987

A Few Good Men – 1992

Wolf – 1994

As Good As It Gets – 1997

Blood & Wine – 1997

The Pledge – 2000

Something's Gotta Give – 2003

The Departed – 2006

NICK NOLTE

Burly blond bear known for tough and tender roles
in melodrama with a few comedies for flavor.

Return to Macon County – 1975

Rich Man, Poor Man (TV) – 1976

The Deep – 1977

Who'll Stop the Rain? – 1978

North Dallas Forty – 1979

48 Hrs. – 1982

Under Fire – 1983

Grace Quigley – 1985

Down & Out in Beverly Hills – 1986

Weeds – 1987

Everybody Wins – 1990

Q & A – 1990

The Prince of Tides – 1993

Jefferson in Paris – 1995

Mulholland Falls – 1996

Afterglow – 1997

Affliction – 1998

The Golden Bowl – 2000

The Good Thief – 2002

Hotel Rwanda – 2004

Tropic Thunder – 2008

GARY OLDMAN

Chameleon-like character lead of short stature and plain, open face who has played many anti-heroes and outright villains, subtly out-acting his co-stars.

- Sid and Nancy** – 1986
- Prick Up Your Ears** – 1987
- Chattahoochee** – 1989
- State of Grace** – 1990
- JFK** – 1991
- Bram Stoker's Dracula** – 1992
- Immortal Beloved** – 1993
- The Scarlet Letter** – 1995
- Air Force One** – 1997
- The Fifth Element** – 1997
- Lost in Space** – 1998
- The Contender** – 2000
- Hannibal** – 2001
- Harry Potter films – 2004 – '07
- Batman Begins** – 2005
- The Dark Knight** – 2008
- The Unborn** – 2009
- Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** – 2012

PETER O'TOOLE

Tall, slender, and once quite handsome, blue-eyed
Scottish blond hero of high-class dramas,
adventures, and offbeat comedies.

Lawrence of Arabia – 1962

Becket – 1964

Lord Jim – 1965

What's New, Pussycat? – 1965

How to Steal A Million – 1966

Casino Royale – 1966

The Lion in Winter – 1968

Under Milk Wood – 1971

The Ruling Class – 1971

Man of La Mancha – 1972

Zulu Dawn – 1979

The Stunt Man – 1980

My Favorite Year – 1982

The Last Emperor – 1987

High Spirits – 1988

King Ralph – 1991

Phantoms – 1997

Bright Young Things – 2003

Venus – 2006

LAURENCE OLIVIER

Veddy upper-crust Shakespearean for most of his career, though occasionally willing to play Cockney jerks and Cherman Nazis when he needed the cash.

- As You Like It – 1936
Fire Over England – 1937
Wuthering Heights – 1939
Rebecca – 1940
Pride and Prejudice – 1940
The Demi Paradise – 1944
Henry V – 1944
Hamlet – 1948
Carrie – 1952
The Beggar's Opera – 1953
Richard III – 1955
The Prince and the Showgirl – 1957
The Devil's Disciple – 1959
The Entertainer – 1960
Spartacus – 1960
Uncle Vanya – 1963
Othello – 1965
Battle of Britain – 1969
Sleuth – 1972
Marathon Man – 1976
A Little Romance – 1979

AL PACINO

For the longest time, a serious actor of note, in many quality productions up to about 2000, as
lovers, cops, gangsters, etc.

- The Panic in Needle Park – 1971
The Godfather films – 1972-90
 Serpico – 1973
 Scarecrow – 1973
Dog Day Afternoon – 1975
 Bobby Deerfield – 1977
...And Justice For All – 1979
 Cruising – 1980
 Scarface – 1983
 Sea of Love – 1989
Frankie & Johnny – 1991
 Scent of a Woman – 1992
Carlito's Way – 1993
 Heat – 1995
 City Hall – 1996
Looking for Richard – 1996
Donnie Brasco – 1997
 Insomnia – 2002
The Merchant of Venice – 2004
88 Minutes – 2008

GREGORY PECK

Tall, lanky brunet with angular good looks and deep masterful delivery. Played mostly heroes but wasn't afraid to stretch for the hell of it.

The Keys of the Kingdom – 1944

The Valley of Decision – 1945

Spellbound – 1945

The Yearling – 1946

Duel in the Sun – 1946

Gentleman's Agreement – 1947

The Paradine Case – 1947

Twelve O'clock High – 1949

The Gunfighter – 1950

The Snows of Kilimanjaro – 1952

Roman Holiday – 1953

The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit – 1956

Moby Dick – 1956

Designing Woman – 1957

The Big Country – 1958

On the Beach – 1959

Cape Fear – 1962

To Kill A Mockingbird – 1963

Mirage – 1965

Old Gringo – 1989

Other People's Money – 1991

SEAN PENN

Best actor of his generation, also an occasionally fine director. Hot-headed off-screen personality worked into gallery of young toughs veering into a mellower middle age and wider range of roles.

Taps – 1981

Fast Times at Ridgemont High – 1982

Bad Boys – 1983

Racing With the Moon – 1984

The Falcon and the Snowman – 1985

At Close Range – 1986

Colors – 1987

Casualties of War – 1989

State of Grace – 1990

Carlito's Way – 1993

Dead Man Walking – 1995

The Game – 1997

The Thin Red Line – 1998

Sweet and Lowdown – 1999

The Weight of Water – 2000

I Am Sam – 2001

25 Grams – 2003

Mystic River – 2003

The Interpreter – 2007

Milk – 2008

BRAD PITT

Being handsome is not enough for this often imaginative role-picker, who isn't afraid of looking scruffy or plain ugly on camera.

- Cutting Class – 1989
- Thelma and Louise** – 1991
- Johnny Suede – 1991
- A River Runs Through It** – 1992
- Kalifornia** – 1992
- True Romance** – 1993
- Legends of the Fall – 1994
- 12 Monkeys** – 1995
- Seven** – 1995
- Sleepers – 1996
- Seven Years in Tibet** – 1997
- Fight Club – 1999
- The Mexican** – 2001
- Ocean's series – 2001-07
- Mr & Mrs Smith – 2005
- Babel** – 2006
- Curious Case of Benjamin Button – 2008
- Inglourious Basterds** – 2009
- World War Z – 2013

SIDNEY POITIER

Single-handedly changed the face of American film without appearing preachy or whiny; he just gave some of the best performances of the 50's & 60's.

No Way Out – 1950

Cry, the Beloved Country – 1952
Go Man Go – 1954

Blackboard Jungle – 1955

Edge of the City – 1957
Band of Angels – 1958

The Defiant Ones – 1958

A Raisin in the Sun – 1961
Paris Blues – 1961

Lilies of the Field – 1963

The Bedford Incident – 1965
A Patch of Blue – 1965

The Slender Thread – 1965
Duel at Diablo – 1966

In the Heat of the Night – 1967
To Sir With Love – 1967

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? – 1967

Buck and the Preacher – 1972
A Warm December – 1973

Shoot to Kill – 1988
Sneakers – 1992

WILLIAM POWELL

Held title of suave ladies' man pre-Grant. Slim, balding, & wide-eyed, frequently cast opposite Loy, Harlow, and Lombard; later played elder statesmen.

The Bright Shawl – 1925

Beau Geste – 1926

The Canary Murder Case – 1929

The Four Feathers – 1929

Street of Chance – 1930

One Way Passage – 1932

The Kennel Murder Case – 1933

Manhattan Melodrama – 1934

The Thin Man and sequels – 1934 – '47

The Great Ziegfeld – 1936

The Ex-Mrs. Bradford – 1936

My Man Godfrey – 1936

Liberated Lady – 1936

The Emperor's Candlesticks – 1937

I Love You Again – 1940

The Heavenly Body – 1944

Life With Father – 1947

Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid – 1948

How to Marry A Millionaire – 1953

Mister Roberts – 1955

ROBERT REDFORD

Handsome blond hunk of the 70's in many political thrillers but surprisingly few romances turned director and indie film entrepreneur of the 80's on.

Situation Hopeless, Not Serious – 1965

Inside Daisy Clover – 1966

Barefoot in the Park – 1967

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid – 1969

The Candidate – 1972

Jeremiah Johnson – 1972

The Sting – 1973

The Way We Were – 1973

The Great Gatsby – 1974

Three Days of the Condor – 1975

The Great Waldo Pepper – 1975

All the President's Men – 1976

The Electric Horseman – 1979

Brubaker – 1980

The Natural – 1983

Out of Africa – 1985

Legal Eagles – 1985

Sneakers – 1989

Havana – 1990

Indecent Proposal – 1993

Up Close and Personal – 1996

GEORGE C. SCOTT

Pompous ass deluxe but such a good actor, you have to look past it. He was a master of the down and dirty, self-loathing characters of post-golden era.

Anatomy of A Murder – 1959

The Hustler – 1962

The List of Adrian Messinger – 1963

Dr. Strangelove – 1963

The Yellow Rolls Royce – 1964

The Flim-Flam Man – 1967

Petulia – 1969

Patton – 1970

They Might Be Giants – 1971

The Hospital – 1972

The New Centurions – 1972

Jane Eyre – 1972 (TV)

Oklahoma Crude – 1973

Day of the Dolphin – 1973

The Savage is Loose – 1974

Islands in the Stream – 1977

Movie Movie – 1978

Hardcore – 1979

Taps – 1981

Firestarter – 1984

The Exorcist III – 1990

PETER SELLERS

Imaginative British funnyman who spread himself too thin and literally wore himself out. Also look for his 50's BBC radio hit, The Goon Show.

The Ladykillers – 1955

The Naked Truth – 1958

The Mouse That Roared – 1959

I'm All Right, Jack – 1959

The Millionairess – 1960

Only Two Can Play – 1962

Dr. Strangelove – 1963

The Pink Panther series – 1963 - 78

The World of Henry Orient – 1964

What's New, Pussycat? – 1965

The Wrong Box – 1966

After the Fox – 1966

The Party – 1968

I Love You, Alice B. Toklas – 1968

There's A Girl in My Soup – 1970

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland – 1972

Murder by Death – 1976

Being There – 1979

FRANK SINATRA

One of the precious few who are blessed with both a beautiful voice and an innate acting ability. Move into more serious fare only improved his odds at pop culture immortality.

- Higher and Higher – 1943
Step Lively – 1944
Anchors Aweigh – 1945
The Kissing Bandit – 1947
Take Me Out to the Ballgame – 1948
The Miracle of the Bells – 1948
On the Town – 1949
From Here to Eternity – 1953
Suddenly – 1954
The Tender Trap – 1955
The Man With the Golden Arm – 1956
Guys and Dolls – 1956
High Society – 1956
Pal Joey – 1957
Some Came Running – 1958
A Hole in the Head – 1959
Ocean's Eleven – 1960
The Manchurian Candidate – 1962
Von Ryan's Express – 1965
The Detective – 1968

KEVIN SPACEY

Essentially a character actor, he was never going to become a leading man of the Lemmon (his idol) school, So he's carved out this niche of interesting men and earned respect after a very slow start.

- Heartburn – 1986
- Rocket Gibraltar** – 1988
- Henry & June – 1990
- Glengarry, Glen Ross** – 1992
- Seven – 1995
- Outbreak – 1995
- Swimming With Sharks** – 1995
- The Usual Suspects** – 1995
- A Time to Kill – 1996
- L.A. Confidential** – 1997
- The Negotiator** – 1998
- American Beauty** – 1999
- Pay It Forward – 2000
- K-Pax** – 2001
- The Life of David Gale – 2003
- Beyond the Sea** – 2004
- Superman Returns – 2006
- Fred Clause – 2007

JAMES STEWART

Tall, cute, skinny man of the people aged quickly after dedicated WWII service, often miscast as too old in otherwise good pictures of the mid 50's.

After the Thin Man – 1936

You Can't Take It With You – 1938

The Shopworn Angel – 1938

Made For Each Other – 1939

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington – 1939

The Shop Around the Corner – 1940

The Philadelphia Story – 1940

It's A Wonderful Life – 1947

Call Northside 777 – 1948

Rope – 1948

The Stratton Story – 1949

Winchester 73 – 1950

The Greatest Show on Earth – 1952

Rear Window – 1954

The Man From Laramie – 1955

The Man Who Knew Too Much – 1956

The Spirit of St. Louis – 1957

Vertigo – 1958

Bell Book & Candle – 1958

Anatomy of a Murder – 1959

Mr Hobbs Takes A Vacation – 1962

SPENCER TRACY

Bogie's only dramatic rival of the golden era, his hair went white early, relegating him to many elder statesmen roles and almost exclusively in romances with Kate Hepburn, on and off screen.

Twenty Thousand Years in Sing-Sing – 1932

The Power and the Glory – 1933

A Man's Castle – 1933

Dante's Inferno – 1935

Fury – 1936

San Francisco – 1936

Liberated Lady – 1936

Captains Courageous – 1937

Test Pilot – 1938

Boy's Town – 1938

Stanley and Livingstone – 1939

Northwest Passage – 1940

Woman of the Year – 1942

A Guy Named Joe – 1943

Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo – 1944

State of the Union – 1948

Adam's Rib – 1949

Father of the Bride – 1950

Pat and Mike – 1952

Bad Day at Black Rock – 1955

Inherit the Wind – 1960

DENZEL WASHINGTON

The nearest pretender to Poitier doesn't quite have his range; the compassion is slow in coming but still a powerhouse actor despite recent physical decline.

- Carbon Copy – 1981
- A Soldier's Story** – 1984
- Cry Freedom** – 1987
- For Queen and Country – 1988
- Glory** – 1989
- The Mighty Quinn** – 1989
- Heart Condition – 1990
- Mo' Better Blues** – 1990
- Mississippi Masala** – 1991
- Ricochet – 1991
- Malcolm X** – 1992
- Much Ado About Nothing – 1993
- Philadelphia** – 1993
- Crimson Tide** – 1995
- Devil in a Blue Dress – 1995
- Courage Under Fire** – 1996
- Fallen – 1998
- The Bone Collector** – 1999
- Training Day** – 2001
- Antwone Fisher – 2002
- Inside Man** – 2006

ROBIN WILLIAMS

Short, stocky, and hirsute with elfin features play into this inventive dude's yo-yo of a career to date.

Great roles, terrible roles, in between quality...

Popeye – 1980

The World According to Garp – 1982

The Survivors – 1983

Moscow on the Hudson – 1984

Club Paradise – 1986

Good Morning Vietnam – 1987

Dead Poets Society – 1989

Cadillac Man – 1990

The Fisher King – 1991

Alladin (voice) – 1992

Mrs. Doubtfire – 1993

Being Human – 1994

The Birdcage – 1996

Goodwill Hunting – 1997

What Dreams May Come – 1998

Bicentennial Man – 1999

Death to Smoochy – 2002

One-Hour Photo – 2002

The Final Cut – 2004

Night At the Museum – 2006

BRUCE WILLIS

Balding yet virile leading man with the ever ready smirk started out as similar TV sleuth on *Moonlighting*, made a few duds then lucked into one of the best serials in years, which led to somewhat wider range of roles.

Blind Date – 1987

Die Hard series – 1988 – present

Look Who's Talking (voice) – 1989

Billy Bathgate – 1991

Pulp Fiction – 1994

Last Man Standing – 1996

The Fifth Element – 1997

Armageddon – 1998

The Siege – 1998

The Sixth Sense – 1999

The Whole Nine Yards – 2000

Bandits – 2001

Ocean's Twelve – 2004

Grindhouse – 2007

Red I & II – 2010 & 13

II

Characters

These are the men of the supporting casts, often the scene-stealers who become the films' breakout stars. Some are, were, or became outright stars themselves

They are the slimy villains, the loving dads, boyfriends, and husbands, the morons, the sad-sacks, the teachers, cops, soldiers, firefighters, cowboys, romantic rivals, and kindly aliens. The guys you love to hate and hate to love.

ALAN ALDA

Slim, earnest former TV star (Hawkeye on M*A*S*H) branched out into middle-aged hero roles after show folded in 1983. Key roles: The Four Seasons, Sweet Liberty, and The Aviator.

LEW AYRES

Real-life pacifist Quaker who played generally kind and gentle souls who rarely got the girl. Key roles: All Quiet on the Western Front, Holiday, Dr. Kildare

KEVIN BACON

Off-beat good looks have enhanced a wide variety of characters both bad and good. Key roles: Footloose, A Stir of Echoes, and The River Wild.

JAVIER BARDEM

Hunky, homely Spanish character in melodrama and action, and romance flicks. Key roles: Before Night Falls, No Country For Old Men, and The Dancer Upstairs.

LIONEL BARRYMORE

Crotchety old man of the hour but sometimes treacly lovable. Key films: It's A Wonderful Life, A Free Soul, Dr Kildare (as Dr. Gillespie) series.

RALPH BELLAMY

The almost eternal schnook, losing the girl despite athletic build and bland good looks. Key roles: His Girl Friday, The Awful Truth, and Sunrise at Campobello

WILLIAM BENDIX

Burly, dems and dose tough guy, usually for comic relief or pathos. Key roles: Life of Riley, Lifeboat.

ERNEST BORGNINE

May have won Oscar for Best Actor (Marty) but his pleasantly homely mug guaranteed him years of heavies as thugs, cops, cowboys, and some heroes. Key roles: A Catered Affair, From Here to Eternity, and The Poseidon Adventure

WALTER BRENNAN

Versatile character who could play wise bums and drunken nitwits. Nominated and won so often, only Kate Hepburn managed to tie him! Key roles: Meet John Doe, The Kentuckian, To Have & Have Not.

BEAU BRIDGES

Son o' Lloyd, bro o' Jeff, did not get the looks so gets to support family with steady career of sad-sacks, creeps, dads, pianists, and so on.

Key roles: Norma Rae, The Fabulous Baker Boys, and Daddy's Dyin' – Who's Got the Will?.

LLOYD BRIDGES

Virile, beady-eyed blond, mostly in support work in westerns and other adventure flicks. Later a TV star of Sea Hunt. Dad of Jeff and Beau. Key roles: Home of the Brave, Airplane!, and Cousins.

ADRIEN BRODY

Will never be a leading man, not with that schnozz, but some fine performances, mostly in indies.

Key roles: Liberty Heights, The Pianist, and Hollywoodland.

STEVE BUSCEMI

Homely guys are often the most compelling; this one does it by playing mostly losers. Key roles:

Fargo, Reservoir Dogs, and Parting Glances.

SIMON CALLOW

Vddy British Merchant-Ivory regular who often plays pompous or clueless types in modern films such as A Room With A View, Maurice, and Four Weddings and A Funeral.

JACK CARSON

Tall, beefy wise-ass of 30's & 40's veered towards more mature roles in the 50's, usually as defeated men. Key roles: Mildred Pierce, Romance on the High Seas, and Cat On A Hot Tin Roof.

JOHN CASSAVETTES

Handsome, intense occasional lead who is more important for his direction of indie films. Key roles: Rosemary's Baby, Tempest, and The Dirty Dozen.

CHARLES COBURN

Chubby old fart livened several comedies of the Golden age of H-wood. Key roles: The Devil and Miss Jones, The Lady Eve, and Monkey Business.

ELISHA COOK, JR

The Eternal Skeev. Key roles: The Maltese Falcon, Don't Bother to Knock, and The Big Sleep.

SEAN CONNERY

Bond. James Bond. The only one who really matters. Also some character work when he quit the franchise. Key roles: Goldfinger, The Untouchables, and Time Bandits.

PETER COYOTE

Rangy, stage-trained player of middle-aged romantics and occasional villains. Key roles: E.T., Cross Creek, and Bitter Moon.

DONALD CRISP

The man who *sold his collie and made his son cry*. Also many aristocrats and a few working-class heroes. Key roles: Lassie Come Home, How Green Was My Valley, and The Uninvited.

BING CROSBY

Hugely successful pop singer from the 1920's on who became popular in Road pictures with pal Bob Hope – and an occasionally dramatic leading man. Key roles: Going My Way, The Country Wife, and High Society

WILLEM DAFOE

Has turned a scarred face and gaunt physique into a character actor's goldmine. Key roles: *Platoon*, *Light Sleeper*, and *The English Patient*.

HENRY DANIELL

The British go-to guy for creepy aristocrats, general meanies, and snobs. Key roles: *The Sea Hawk*, *The Philadelphia Story*, and *The Body Snatcher*.

BRUCE DAVISON

Slight, slim blond with deer-in-headlights look who played many youth roles into his late 40's. Key roles: *Last Summer*, *Mame*, *Longtime Companion*,

JAMES DEAN

Iconic, essentially character player whose passionate, promising performances made him one of the odder legends in US film. Key roles: *East of Eden*, *Rebel Without A Cause*, and *Giant*.

BRIAN DENNEHY

Big burly blond guy always seems to know you better than you know him. 50/50 good/bad guys. Key roles: *Cocoon*, *The River Rat*, *Never Cry Wolf*.

JOHNNY DEPP

Despite a few strong leads, his best work is in characters, though he desperately needs to disassociate from Burton & Disney. Key roles: Benny & Joon, Before Night Falls, and Ed Wood.

BRUCE DERN

Laura's pop specializes in both weirdos and sympathetic losers of all sorts. Key roles: Silent Running, Smile, and Coming Home

DANNY DEVITO

Pint-sized Italian-American butterball with the rapid-fire tongue usually plays bastards but can be a nice guy ... rarely. Key roles: Ruthless People, Renaissance Man, and L.A. Confidential.

MELVYN DOUGLAS

Tall, lanky dude who began in sophisticated romantic comedy, moving on into dramatic character work well into his senior years. Key roles: Annie Oakley, Ninotchka, and Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House.

BRAD DOURIF

Slender, curly-haired boyish into old-mannish
usually plays sensitive or intense marginal types.
Key roles: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Wise
Blood, and Mississippi Burning.

HOWARD DUFF

Wiseguy – honing it as radio's Sam Spade – who
grew into burly tough guy, occasionally nice.
Naked City, While the City Sleeps, and Kramer Vs.
Kramer

CHARLES DURNING

Chubby, real-life WWII hero became popular in his
40's as villainous thugs as well as charming
romancers and cool dads. Key roles: The
Choirboys, Queen of the Stardust Ballroom, and
Home For the Holidays

DAN DURYEA

Slim blond rotten person in film noir, comedies, and
historical dramas. Key roles: The Little Foxes, Ball
of Fire, and The Flight of the Phoenix.

DENHOLM ELLIOT

Attractive Brit, often as soldiers, later as dads and
butlers. Key roles: Nothing But The Best, A Room
With A View, and Trading Places

HECTOR ELIZONDO

Balding, tough-loving dad type, mostly in comedy.
Key roles: The Flamingo Kid, Frankie & Johnny,
and Chicago Hope (TV).

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS, SR

King of the silent adventure flicks, he ruled
Hollywood before 1927; career went the way of
open-captions. Key roles: The Mark of Zorro, Robin
Hood, and Thief of Bagdad

W. C. FIELDS

Rotund comic of vaudeville fame who made several
films up through WWII era. Specialized in
laughable frauds, drunks, would-be ladies' men, etc
Key roles: David Copperfield, My Little Chickadee,
and The Bank Dick

ANDY GARCIA

Attractive Cuban-American second lead who plays
mostly cops and occasional romantics. Key roles:
The Mean Season, Internal Affairs, and
When A Man Loves A Woman.

SCOTT GLENN

Angular with athletic build, has played some villains but best as offbeat heroes. Key roles: Urban Cowboy, The Right Stuff, and Silence of the Lambs.

JEFF GOLDBLUM

Tall, slim, tan, and often disarmingly cute started out in thug roles, moved on to anti-heroes, usually second leads. Key roles: The Fly, Earth Girls Are Easy, and Independence Day.

JOHN GOODMAN

Large, bearish, often jovial guy curiously has never won the gold. Most famous as Roseanne's longtime, long-suffering TV husband, key film roles include: Raising Arizona, Matinee, and Argo.

ELLIOTT GOULD

Began as a good-looking star but weight gain relegated him to actually more interesting support work. Key roles: M*A*S*H, Bugsy, and the revived Ocean's 11 films.

RUPERT GRAVES

Wavy-haired, boyish Brit, mostly in his country's indies and art-house fare. Much more charming than the other Rupert. Key roles: Maurice, Mrs. Dalloway, and Different For Girls.

SYDNEY GREENSTREET

Bloated British character who usually played pompous thugs and wealthy, apoplectic farts. Key roles: The Maltese Falcon, Christmas in Connecticut, and The Hucksters.

ALEC GUINNESS

David Lean regular was a man of many faces, regrettably (to his own admission) most famous as an alien superhero. Key *acting* roles: The Lavender Hill Mob, Doctor Zhivago, and A Passage to India

ED HARRIS

Short, lean, with intense blue eyes and demeanor, an everyman who can be mean as a snake or gentle as a lamb. Key roles: The Right Stuff, Sweet Dreams, and Apollo 13.

IAN HOLM

Shakespearean who can charm you with a seemingly genuine sweetness or repel you with a certain reptilian quality. Key roles: Alien, Wetherby, and King Lear (TV).

ANTHONY HOPKINS

Stage-trained, powerfully-built actor with intense pale blue eyes made him a natural for sensitive types until Hannibal Lecter came a callin'. Key roles: A Lion in Winter, 84 Charing Cross Road, and The Human Stain

BOB HOSKINS

Soon to be much-missed, pleasingly plump retiree with a penchant for losers of all sorts: go-betweens, media hacks, small-time thugs and bad artists in love with Cher. Key roles: The Long Good Friday, Mona Lisa, and Mermaids.

ROCK HUDSON

Tall, dark and handsome, but not a very good actor until he started doing comedy almost exclusively. Also good in rugged adventure & detective work. Key roles: Giant, Pillow Talk, and Seconds.

WALTER HUSTON

Directed by son John or his peers, he usually delivered the goods as sly prospectors or henpecked husbands. Key roles: Rain, Dodsworth, and The Treasure of the Sierra Madre

REX INGRAM

One of the first black character actors was this large man who briefly touched stardom via a Eugene O'Neill play. Key roles: The Emperor Jones, Huckleberry Finn, and The Thief of Bagdad.

SAMUEL L. JACKSON

Tall, homely dude who will be forever linked with *Snakes on a Plane!!!*

Also Pulp Fiction and Do The Right Thing.

EDGAR KENNEDY

Eternal foe of the Marx Bros and various other comics. Master of the Slow Burn. Key roles: Tillie's Punctured Romance, Duck Soup, and Unfaithfully Yours.

BEN KINGSLEY

Gandhi was a fluke; this Anglo-Indian is best in support, usually noble men. Key roles: Pascali's Island, Schindler's List, and Bugsy.

MARTIN LANDAU

Tall, dark and attractive started out as one of the creepiest Hitchcock villains, graduating to more heroic types as he has aged. Key roles: North by Northwest, Crimes and Misdemeanors, & Ed Wood

CHARLES LANE

Slim, sharp-faced player, usually in glasses; had one of the longest careers in show biz, as journos, judges, and various other snippy-mouthed types.

Key roles: Mr Deeds Goes to Town, Arsenic and Old Lace, and What's So Bad About Feeling Good?

ED LAUTER

Harsh-looking character appropriately played many thugs and creeps. Key roles: The Longest Yard, Cujo, and Raw Deal.

JUDE LAW

Groomed to be a lead, but short stature and fading good looks have sent him to the bench in supporting roles. But, hey – more money innit. Key roles: Gattaca, A.I., & Wilde.

HEATH LEDGER

Handsome Aussie blond whose sensitive work earned early praise before his unfortunate drug overdose. Key roles: Monster's Ball, Brokeback Mountain, and The Dark Knight.

JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT

Destined to remain a character, this plain-faced slim Jim seems to prefer more liberating indie leads like Hesher than over-rated sf flicks. Key roles: Mysterious Skin, Brick, and Stop-Loss

JAKE GYLLENHAL

Offbeat good looks guarantee this guy will have character work for years to come. Son of screenwriter Naomi Foner, brother of Maggie – all three each have Oscar nods. Key roles: Donnie Darko, Brokeback Mountain, and Jarhead.

HAROLD LLOYD

One of the Crucial 3 of silent comedy, alongside Chaplin & Keaton, a master acrobat as well as the best-looking, but career ran too short. Key roles: Safety Last, The Freshman, and The Milky Way

ROBERT LOGGIA

Foghorn-voiced tough guy has played villains and iconic figures. Key roles: Jagged Edge, Big, and Smilla's Sense of Snow.

JOHN LONE

Handsome Chinese who played a few leads in early 80's, now more of a character player. Key roles: Iememan, The Last Emperor, and Rush Hour.

PETER LORRE

Bug-eyed chihuahua of a person found initial fame
as onscreen child killer, graduated to gay
stereotypes, and homuncular ocean sidekicks.

Key roles: M, The Maltese Falcon, and
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.

BELA LUGOSI

Exotic lead from silents who found going tough
outside of the horror genre because of thick
Hungarian accent; wound up in Ed Wood's trash.

Key roles: Dracula, The Murders in the Rue
Morgue, and Plan 9 From Outer Space

RODDY McDOWALL

Former child star who played various fey
characters. Was active in film preservation
movement. Key roles: Lassie Come Home, Funny
Lady, and Planet of the Apes (and sequels).

BARTON MACLANE

Beefy grumbler who (for example) supported Bogie
in three distinctly different performances – tough
cop, conniving fisherman, and duplicitous foreman.
These roles are The Maltese Falcon, To Have and
Have Not, and The Treasure of the Sierra Madre.

WILLIAM H. MACY

Another bug-eyed doggie who tends to play schlemiels, sad-sacks, and other losers.

Key roles: *Fargo*, *The Cooler*, and *Dead Again*.

JOHN MALKOVICH

Sliminess in human form. Vet of Chicago's Steppenwolf theater company. Key roles: *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Empire of the Sun*, & *Red*.

JEAN MARAIS

Tall, handsome Frenchman, longtime companion of director Jean Cocteau & star of most of his films, also worked for other greats up to mid-90's. Key roles: *La Belle et La Bete*, *Le Testament d'Orphee*, and *Stealing Beauty*.

HERBERT MARSHALL

Cuddly Brit who was frequent object of B. Davis' onscreen cruel streak. Key roles: *The Letter*, *The Little Foxes*, and *The Razor's Edge*.

WALTER MATTHAU

Large, garrulous brunet with hangdog features; nevertheless a thinking person's sex symbol, frequently paired with pal Jack Lemmon.

Key roles: *Fail-Safe*, *The Fortune Cookie*, and *The Bad News Bears*.

DONALD MEEK

He certainly was in variety of barely - repressed little old man supports. Key roles: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Stagecoach, and Nick Carter: Master Detective.

RAY MILLAND

Archly handsome youth became craggy middle-aged loner and early indie auteur. Key roles: The Lost Weekend, Panic in Year Zero, and The Uninvited.

JOHN MILLS

Cute little Englishman specializing in quietly heroic men; dad of Hayley and Juliet. Amusing final bit in his 90s in Bright Young Things. Key roles: Great Expectations, Ryan's Daughter, and The Swiss Family Robinson.

HARRIS 'DIVINE' MILSTEAD

Infamous, plus-sized drag queen who starred in a half-dozen underground classics for pal John Waters. Great gift for satire, died too young.. Key roles: Female Trouble, Polyester, and Hairspray.

RICARDO MONTALBAN

Handsome, vibrant actor from Mexico. Lean, mean, and virile all the way into his 60's, Key roles: Battleground, Sweet Charity and Star Trek: The Wrath of Khan.

PAUL MUNI

Huge star in 30's but career faded as more impressive young guns filled the business. Key roles: Juarez, Scarface, and The Life of Emile Zola.

SAM NEILL

Handsome Irishman bubbled under stardom, better at characters supporting stronger female leads. Key roles: Plenty, A Cry in the Dark, & The Piano.

RAMON NOVARRO

Handsome Mexican silent screen star who later did character work; victim of brutal hate crime in 1968. Key roles: Scaramouche, Ben Hur (1925), and We Were Strangers.

RYAN O'NEAL

Once a handsome lead, now a paunchy character, such as the heroine's dad on TV's *Bones*. Key roles: What's Up Doc?, Paper Moon, and Love Story.

CLIVE OWEN

First virile hunk of the Finney/Bates school to come out of England in many years, has yet to fully catch on with American public. Apparently, he must play cartoon hero. Key roles: Shoot Em Up, Children of Men, and Closer

GUY PEARCE

Attractive Aussie turned heads with outrageous drag performance in an instant cult classic, followed by second lead in a classic period piece, followed by ... more character work. Key roles: The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, L.A. Confidential, and Mildred Pierce (TV).

BILL PAXTON

Slim young punk who has branched out into more sensitive, even romantic characterizations. Key roles: Near Dark, Aliens, and One False Move.

SIMON PEGG

This comic genius has proven to be the heir to Peter Sellers' long-empty throne. Forte is detailed satire of various film cliches. Key roles: Shaun of the Dead, Run Fat-boy Run, and Paul.

VINCENT PRICE

Tall, pale, effete New Englander began as upper-crust types, eventually devolved into camp horror favorite. Key roles: *Leave Her to Heaven*, *The Last Man on Earth*, and *The Tomb of Ligeia*.

BILL PULLMAN

Athletic blond with gifts for both broad comedy and offbeat heroic types. Key roles: *Ruthless People*, *The Zero Effect*, and *Independence Day*.

RANDY QUAID

Tall, homely, curly-haired Texan has played nerds, virgins, nitwits, bullies, and other creeps. Key roles: *The Last Detail*, *Foxes*, and *Brokeback Mountain*.

JOHN QUALEN

Norwegian-Canadian character who played many good-natured yet sniveling wimps. Key roles: *The Grapes of Wrath*, *His Girl Friday*, and *The Seven Faces of Dr. Lao*.

AIDAN QUINN

Short, attractive, Irish-American has played romantic and action leads in mostly minor films. Key roles: *An Early Frost*, *The Playboys*, and *Songcatcher*.

CLAUDE RAINS

Consummate character player of noblemen and devious rat-finks. Key roles: Casablanca, Notorious, and Now, Voyager.

BASIL RATHBONE

Sherlock Holmes. The only one that ever mattered or ever will. Other key roles: Anna Karenina, Captain Blood, and The Court Jester..

ALDO RAY

Muscular, virile blond who specialized in likeable dummies, mostly in the 50's. Key roles: Pat and Mike, We're No Angels, and The Marrying Kind.

MICHAEL REDGRAVE

Key member of leading British theatrical family was more or less a character player in the US. Key roles: The Lady Vanishes, The Browning Version, and The Importance of Being Earnest.

BURT REYNOLDS

Can act well when he wants to but too often went for the cheap laugh and the big bucks, Serious acting comeback in 90's sadly went nowhere. Key roles: Deliverance, Semi-Tough, and Breaking In.

GIOVANNI RIBISI

Ever sad-eyed character with talent for playing oddballs and the occasional sympathetic hero.

Key roles: Saving Private Ryan, The Gift, and Boiler Room

ERIC ROBERTS

One-time promising star is a much better actor, and was better-looking than his bratty kid sister, even after years of bad behavior. Key roles: Star 80,

Runaway Train, and It's My Party.

TIM ROBBINS

Tall, slim, pouty-faced guy can play cynical creeps, emotionally-wounded naifs, and dumb jocks. Key roles: Bull Durham, Bob Roberts, and Mystic River.

EDWARD G. ROBINSON

Short, stocky, homely man who started out in many gangster flicks of the early sound era, progressed to wise and/or kindly adults. Key roles: Key Largo, Our Vines Have Tender Grapes, and Soylent Green.

SAM ROCKWELL

Slightly-built young buck who can play your emotions with slimy villains, cartoon jerks, and overwrought dads. Key roles: The Green Mile, Joshua, and The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

KURT RUSSELL

Cheeky star of many B-movies and a few A-listers, his characters are pretty memorable. Key roles: Escape From New York, Overboard, and Silkwood.

S. Z 'CUDDLES' SAKALL

Nickname tells the tale of this real-life escapee from Nazis; played series of lovable and not-so-dumb sidekicks. Key roles: Christmas in Connecticut, Ball of Fire, and In the Good Old Summertime.

ROY SCHEIDER

Rangy, rail-thin dude, usually as reluctant heroes or smug studs. Key roles: Jaws, Blue Thunder, and the Bob Fosse semi-auto-biopic, All That Jazz.

CAMPBELL SCOTT

Tall, handsome son of film star George C. and stage star Colleen Dewhurst was pre-destined to become a fine character player as well, particularly in indies. Key roles: The Day-Trippers, The Spanish Prisoner, and Dying Young.

GEORGE SEGAL

Attractive blond adept in both serious drama and screwball comedy. Key roles: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, No Way to Treat A Lady, and Look Who's Talking

OMAR SHARIF

Handsome, earthy Lebanese lead of the 60's whose quality roles faded with his looks. Key roles: Lawrence of Arabia, Dr. Zhivago, and The Tamarind Seed.

MARTIN SHEEN

Attractive Irish-Latino American player who never made it to the big leagues outside of TV. Mostly in heroic roles, with occasional creepy villains. Key roles: Badlands, Apocalypse Now, and Da.

TERENCE STAMP

Handsome, slender ladies' man recently most famous playing a transsexual entertainer. Key roles: Billy Budd, Far From the Madding Crowd, and Adventures of Priscilla – Queen of the Desert,

ROD STEIGER

Intense fat man of the stage and screen with an unfortunate occasional lean towards hamminess.

Key roles: No Way to Treat A Lady, The Pawnbroker, and In the Heat of the Night.

DAVID STRAITHERN

Slim, rangy and dark, he has played a mix of pathetic losers, noble heroes, and skeevy creeps.

Key roles: A Dangerous Woman, Good Night and Good Luck, and Passion Fish.

DONALD SUTHERLAND

Tall, rangy blond – to ivory-haired Canadian character began playing creepy guys in the 60's, graduated to sly virile anti-heroes and sages.

Kiefer's dad. Key roles: M*A*S*H, Klute, and JFK.

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Short, husky blond with talent for evil meanies and earnest heroes. Key roles: Eye For An Eye, Flatliners, and A Few Good Men.

PATRICK SWAYZE

Good guys die young but he left us three great performances, all of them character gems – the lover, the dancer, and the drag queen. They are: Ghost, Dirty Dancing, and To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar.

RUSS TAMBLYN

Boyish, athletic dancer and jokey second lead; Amber's dad. Key roles: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, The Haunting, and West Side Story.

ROBERT TAYLOR

Wooden pretty boy who matured into okay character player. Key roles: Camille, Westward the Women, and Ivanhoe.

ROD TAYLOR

Handsome Aussie hunk at best in 1960's adventures with inevitable romance. Key roles: The Time Machine, The Birds, and Thirty-Six Hours

GEORGE TOBIAS

Burly, balding buddy in many war films and comedies of the golden era; latterly famous as the henpecked neighbor on *Bewitched*. Key roles: Sergeant York, Objective Burma, and The Glass-Bottom Boat.

FRANCHOT TONE

Attractive lead in the golden era but gradually fell out of favor by WWII era; came back briefly in early 60's. Key roles: Mutiny on the Bounty, Five Graves to Cairo, and Advise and Consent.

STANLEY TUCCI

Balding, stage-friendly New Yorker best at catty, snobby types. Key roles Winchell (TV), Big Night, and The Devil Wears Prada.

JON VOIGHT

Peaked in late 70's as boyish leading man, character player ever since, especially villains.
Key roles: Midnight Cowboy, Coming Home, and Runaway Train

MAX VON SYDOW

Leading man in Sweden, character actor in America; can play heroes and villains with precision. Key roles: The Exorcist, Three Days of the Condor, and Hannah and Her Sisters.

CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

Attractive string-bean with self-effacing sense of humor despite some devastatingly emotional work.

Key roles: *The Deer Hunter*, *The Dead Zone*, and
Next Stop, Greenwich Village.

SAM WATERSTON

Lincolnesque in appearance and manner, long stint as DA on *Law & Order* has led to more elder statesman work. Key roles: *Interiors*, *The Killing Fields*, and *The Newsroom* (TV).

JOHN WAYNE

Epitome of the wooden movie star, nevertheless hugely popular, probably due to his non-flamboyant style. Key roles: *Red River*, *The Quiet Man*, and *True Grit*.

CLIFTON WEBB

Effete, mustachioed dude always played elitists and bossy know-it-alls. Key roles; *Cheaper by the Dozen*, *Sitting Pretty*, and *Laura*

ORSON WELLES

Attractive & brilliant young thespian became obese, jaded and faded wastrel due to the studio system and probably a certain humorless media magnate.

Key roles: Citizen Kane, The Third Man, and Touch of Evil.

FOREST WHITAKER

Burly, wonky-eyed guy has played reluctant thugs, awkward detectives, tragic jazzmen, and psychotic dictators, often to fund his and friends' indie works and public good deeds. Key roles: Bird, The Crying Game, and The Last King of Scotland

RICHARD WIDMARK

Sharp-featured blond first made waves pushing old lady down flight of stairs, tried & often failed to redeem self as solid citizens and anti-heroes.

Key roles: Kiss of Death, Panic in the Streets, and Pickup on South Street.

GENE WILDER

Ever-nervous, curly-haired blond in all sorts of comedies, best with Mel Brooks. Key roles: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, Start the Revolution Without Me, and Young Frankenstein.

JAMES WOODS

Chiseled, slim and aggressive player of would-be intellectuals, thugs, and creeps. Key roles: Against All Odds, Salvador, and Ghosts of Mississippi.

ROBERT YOUNG

From callow youth to radio & television's beloved pair – a dad and a doc, this man reinvented himself successfully for over 60 years. Key roles: The Enchanted Cottage, Three Comrades, and Claudia.

BILLY ZANE

Virile thug started out menacing young Nicole Kidman, has moved on to competent character work. Key roles: Dead Calm, Orlando, and Titanic.

Sources:

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